

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

PAPER NO: AP18/65

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
14 DECEMBER 2018**

**SUBJECT: USE OF STOP SEARCH IN SUFFOLK –
1 OCTOBER 2017 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018**

SUMMARY:

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve month period 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018. There were 1,585 stops during the reporting period.
2. The number of stop and search used by Suffolk officers in the most recent quarter (395) was 1175 (75%) lower than at the commencement of new Home Office stop and search standards in April 2014.
3. An assessment of the reason for search and the object of the stop show that the majority of stop and searches are associated with drugs. 1057 (67%) of all stop searches have drugs as the reason for the search. 181 (11%) of stop searches were strip searches and of these, 177 (94%) were in relation to drugs.
4. In quarter 2 of 2018/19, people whose ethnicity was categorised as Black and Ethnic Minority were 3.8 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity. This represents a decrease from 4.3 in quarter 2 of 2017/18. There have been fluctuations in proportionality over the last 12 months with variations of disproportionality ranging between 3.5 and 5.0.
5. Eight out of ten people stopped and searched reported that they understood the reasons for their search and were treated with respect and dignity by the officer(s).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to take account of the steps that the Constabulary is taking to ensure stop search legislation is used fairly and effectively.

1 USE OF STOP/SEARCH IN SUFFOLK OCTOBER 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2017

- 1.1 A new database for recording ‘stop and search’ and ‘stop and account’ was implemented in Suffolk in December 2014, as directed by the Home Office. The rationale behind the new database is to allow for greater governance of the use of stop and search powers, and allow for the identification of trends in the use of powers by individual officers, teams or stations. The new database also allows for increased data collection on stop and search outcomes.
- 1.2 The Home Secretary wrote to all forces in April 2014 following the findings of an HMIC inspection of how stop and search powers are used. Two main concerns raised were that:
- a) the HMIC found that fewer than half of police Forces in England and Wales complied with PACE 1984 requirements that arrangements are in place for stop and search records to be scrutinised by the communities they serve
 - b) some forces set officer targets in relation to stop and search
- 1.3 As a result, the Home Office and College of Policing introduced the ‘Best Use of Stop and Search’ scheme. Participating forces were asked to record the use of stop and search in more detail going forward in order to show the link (or otherwise) between the object of the search and the outcome. The scheme also introduced lay observation policies to enable members of the public to accompany officers on patrol and a ‘community trigger’ whereby police must explain to the public how powers are being used when there is a large volume of complaints.
- 1.4 This report (and future reports) is based on data collected from the new database. This report covers the period between 1 October 2017 and 30 September 2018 inclusive.

2 OVERALL TRENDS¹

2.1 Use of stop and search

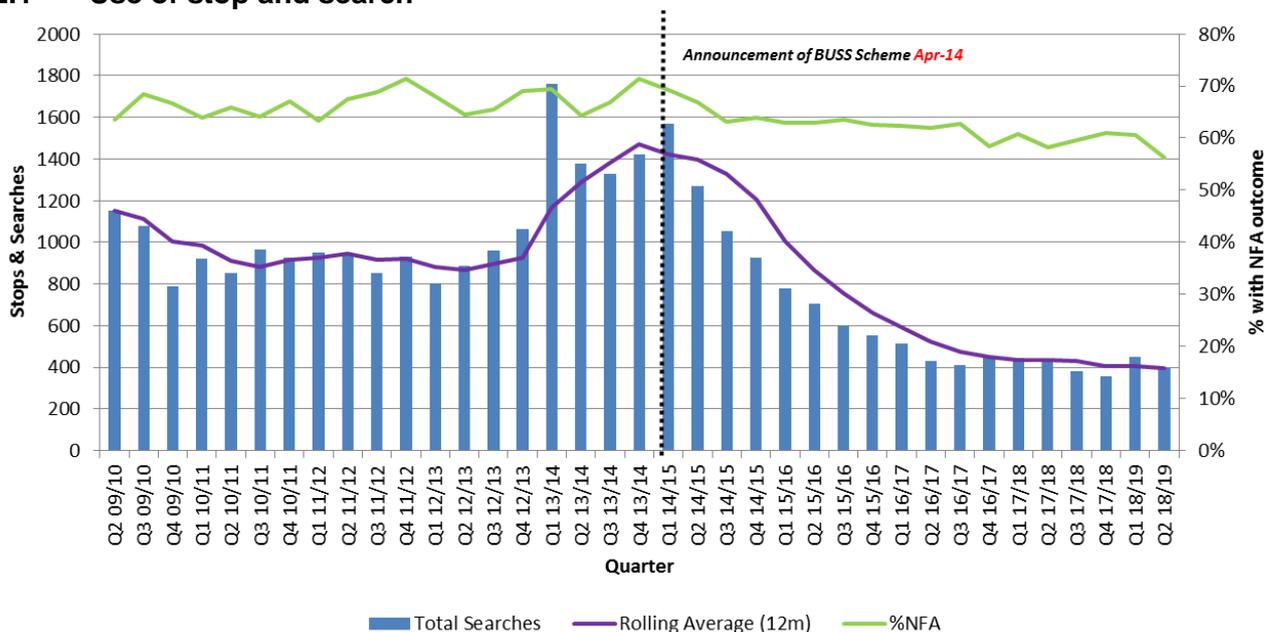


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

- 2.1.1 Figure 1 displays long term trends in stop and search over time. Although there have been fluctuations in the number of stop searches conducted since Q2 2017/18, there is still a consistent downward trend in stop and search since the announcement of the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme.

¹ Rolling average based on a 12 month period

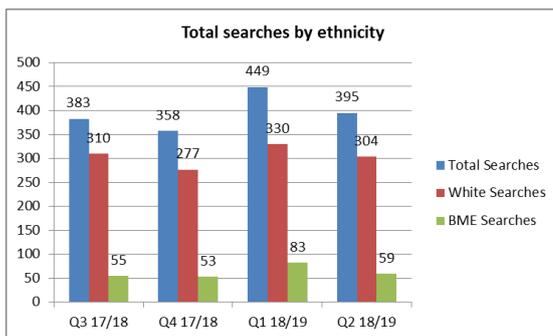


Figure 2: Total searches by ethnicity

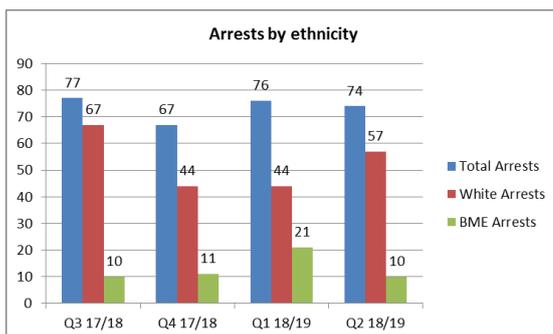


Figure 3: Total arrests by ethnicity (please note that an arrest may not result in a prosecution)

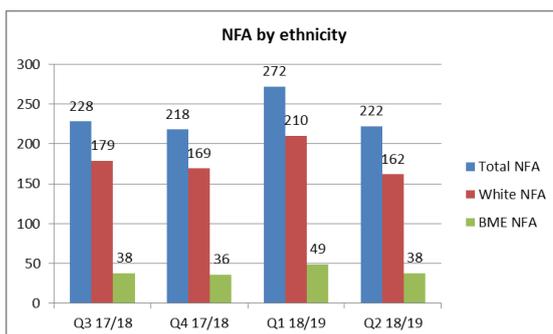


Figure 4: Total NFA by ethnicity

The above three charts (figures 2, 3 & 4) show the Stop and Search trend data for the last 12 months, split by ethnicity. Please note, that in some cases the ethnicity data does not add up to the total number of searches, arrest outcomes and no further action outcomes because on occasions the ethnicity is not stated within the data.

2.1.2 Figure 5 displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk since the beginning of the reporting period and reflects the general downward trend previously mentioned since the introduction of BUSS. In the year that BUSS was introduced there was an average of 400 stop and searches per month; this has now reduced to an average of 140 per month in the last six months of the 2018/19 reporting period. During the last six months the number of stop and searches reached a peak of 199 in June with the numbers reducing on a monthly basis between June and September.

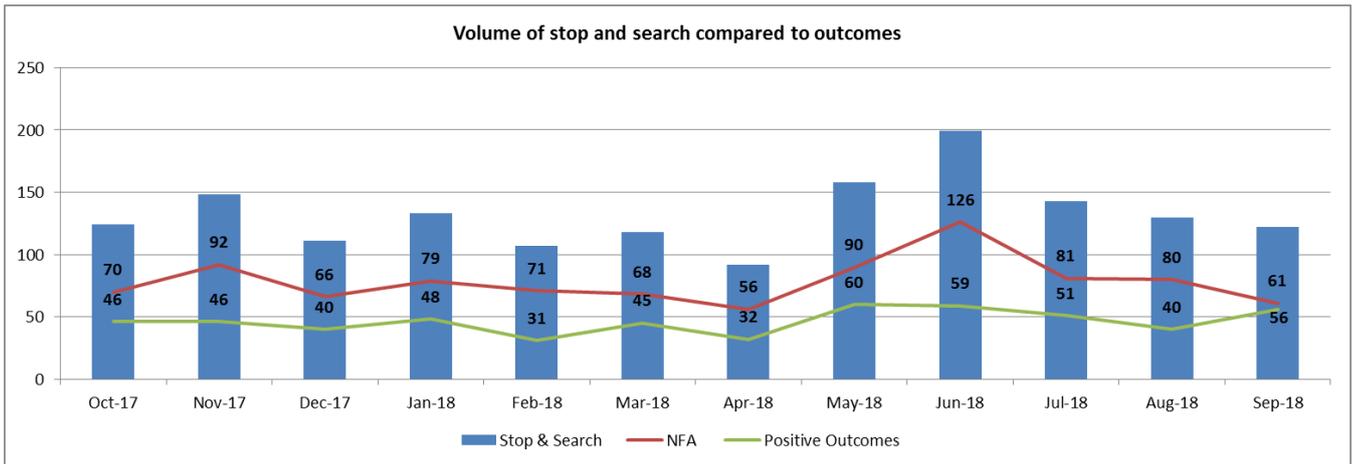


Figure 5: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes October 2017 – September 2018

2.1.3 Between October 2017 and September 2018 the average rate of searches resulting in no further action taken (NFA) was 59% with the NFA rate for quarter 2 2018/19 being returned as 56% which is a reduction of 4% from the previous quarter. In terms of quarterly statistics, there has been an almost continual decrease in NFA rate since the introduction of BUSS compared to moderate fluctuations prior to April 2014 (ranging between 63% in quarter 1 of 2011/12 and 71% in quarter 4 of 2013/2014).

2.2 Object and reason for search

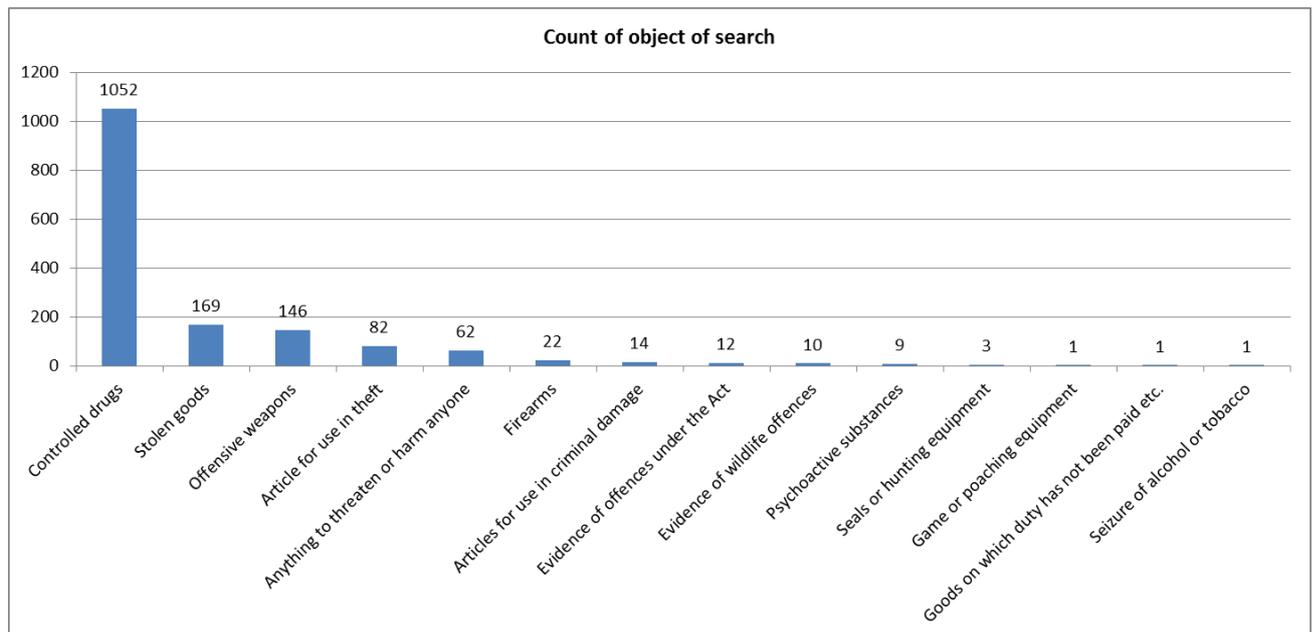


Figure 6: Count of Object of Search

2.2.1 Figure 6 displays the object of stops and searches undertaken in Suffolk, the reporting period. In the majority of stop searches, controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volumes of these searches have taken place in two of the main centres of population in Suffolk – Ipswich and St Edmundsbury districts which is where police intelligence indicates that there is a higher prevalence of drug dealing and usage activity. Drugs related stop and searches in Ipswich (n=305) accounted for 29% of the stop and searches where drugs was recorded as the object of the search, and in St Edmundsbury the percentage was 24% (n=254).

2.2.2 During the reporting period there were 1057(67%) of stop and searches where the reason for the search was drugs. Analysis of these drugs searches shows that, 572 (54%) were carried

out against persons aged under 25 years old. In respect of ethnicity, 174(16%) of these searches were on those with a BME background, 820(78%) on those of White ethnicity and 63 (6%) were on people for whom the ethnicity is not known/not stated.

2.3 Use of strip search

2.3.1 Between October 2017 and September 2018, there were 181 strip searches, accounting for 11% of all stop and searches in Suffolk which is a decrease of 2.3% compared to the last report. Figure 7 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 177 (98%) being drug related. Drug dealers are known to use various tactics to conceal drugs about their person, including the concealing of drugs in body cavities, hence the high prevalence of the use of strip searches in relation to drugs.

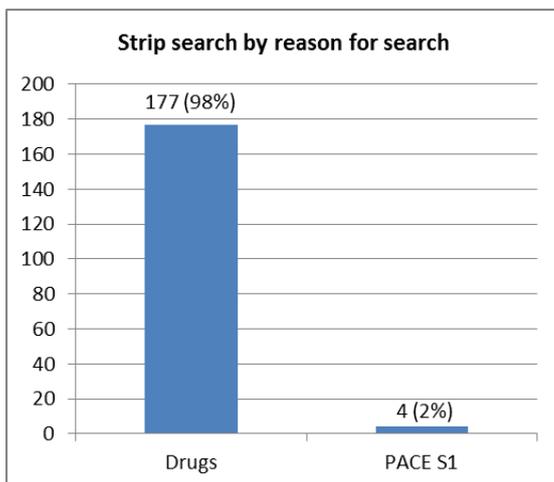


Figure 7: Suffolk strip search by reason for search

2.3.2 During the reporting period, 62 (34%) of all strip searches were undertaken on people of black or minority ethnic (BME) background, 110 (61%) on persons of White (British) ethnicity, with the remainder comprising of persons who have declined to define their ethnicity, or do not understand what is required. The item(s) being searched for is/are found in 51(28%) of strip searches, whilst an item(s) not being searched for is/are found in 16 (9%) of strip searches.

Strip search	Count	Percentage	White	White %	BME	BME%	Not stated	Not stated %
Drugs	177	97.8%	107	60.5%	61	34.5%	9	5.1%
PACE S1	4	2.2%	3	75.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%
Totals	181	100.0%	110	60.8%	62	34.3%	9	5.0%

Table 1: Strip search by reason and ethnicity

The above table shows the strip search by reason and ethnicity. The first two columns show the count and percentage of stop and searches according to the reason for search. The following columns assess the count/percentage according to ethnicity for each of the reasons for stop search, and this part of the table should be read crossways.

2.3.3 During the reporting period, the age category for which there were the most strip searches was 25 years and over for all strip searches irrespective of ethnicity and for those with a White background it was also 25 years and over and for BME subjects it was the 18-24 years age category.

Table 2: Age breakdown and ethnicity of people who were the subject of a strip search

Age category	Count of strip searches	Percentage of total	White	Percentage of age category	BME	Percentage of age category	Not stated	Percentage of age category
10-14 years	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
15-17 years	18	9.9%	9	50.0%	8	44.4%	1	5.6%
18-24 years	67	37.0%	35	52.0%	28	42.0%	4	6.0%
25 years and over	93	51.4%	65	70.0%	25	27.0%	3	3.0%
Not known	2	1.1%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%

2.4 Stop and Search Outcomes

Table 3: Suffolk Stop and Search Outcomes

Outcome type	Count	Percentage of outcomes	White count	Percentage of outcome code	BME	Percentage of outcome code
Nothing found – No further action	881	59.9%	720	81.7%	161	18.3%
Suspect arrested	264	18.0%	212	80.3%	52	19.7%
Offender given drugs possession warning	96	6.5%	90	93.8%	6	6.3%
No Category	83	5.6%	69	83.1%	14	16.9%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	50	3.4%	47	94.0%	3	6.0%
Local resolution	38	2.6%	32	84.2%	6	15.8%
Suspect summonsed to court	36	2.5%	31	86.1%	5	13.9%
Offender cautioned	15	1.0%	13	86.7%	2	13.3%
Offender given penalty notice	5	0.3%	4	80.0%	1	20.0%
Suspected psychoactive substances seized – No further action	3	0.2%	3	100.0%	0.00	0.0%
Total	1471	100.0%	1221	83.0%	250	17.0%

2.4.1 The most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for almost 60% of all outcomes, with a further 5.6% of searches where the outcome is not recorded, as displayed in Table 3. The NFA statistic is broadly consistent with the previous reporting period. However, there has been a reduction of just over 3% in the number of stop and searches that do not have the outcome stated indicating that the quality of recording may have improved.

2.4.2 The proportions of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome varies from district to district, ranging from 45.9% in Babergh, to 66.4% in Ipswich. The average percentage of NFA outcomes is 56.2%.

2.5 Proportionality in the Use of Stop and Search

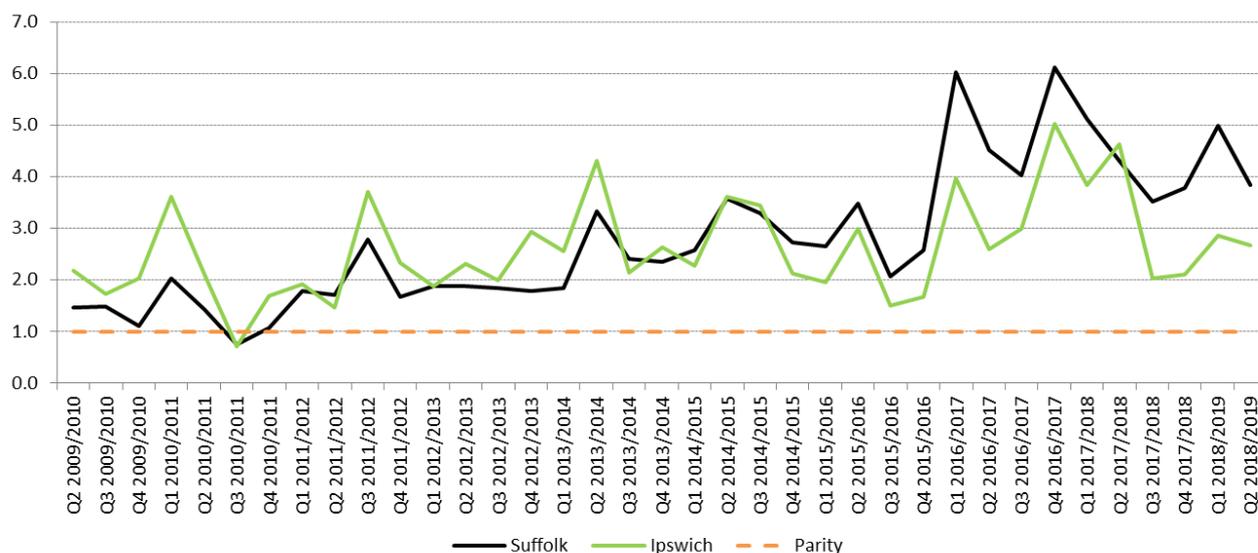


Figure 8: Proportionality in the use of Stop and Search in Suffolk

2.5.1 Figure 8 displays the ethnicity proportionality of the use of stop and search for Suffolk as a whole and for Ipswich (where the use of stop and search is most prevalent). As a guide, if the proportionality figure is equal to one, it equates to parity – or that a BME person has had an equal likelihood of being subject to a stop and search as a white person. Where the figure is greater than one, BME people have been disproportionately subjected to the use of stop and search compared to white people².

2.5.2 In the last quarter, people whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 3.8 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity when assessing the County as a whole. The statistics for Ipswich show that those whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 2.7 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity.
(continued overleaf)

² Based on the ethnic breakdown for Suffolk / Ipswich given in the latest census (2011) - ONS

Table 4: Suffolk Stop and Search by district, broken down by White / BME ethnicity

	Suffolk				Babergh				Forest Heath				Ipswich				Mid Suffolk				St Eds				Suffolk Coastal				Waveney			
	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME
Q1 2013/14	1759	1510	141	8.0%	252	229	8	3.2%	141	117	15	10.6%	221	154	49	22.2%	91	83	2	2.2%	394	345	29	7.4%	103	91	10	9.7%	535	491	28	5.2%
Q2 2013/14	1376	1087	183	13.3%	125	113	5	4.0%	164	120	24	14.6%	309	183	98	31.7%	95	82	5	5.3%	279	251	13	4.7%	71	56	14	19.7%	316	282	24	7.6%
Q3 2013/14	1329	1116	132	9.9%	67	62	2	3.0%	124	102	15	12.1%	352	265	71	20.2%	108	98	5	4.6%	261	226	20	7.7%	103	90	7	6.8%	292	273	12	4.1%
Q4 2013/14	1420	1211	143	10.1%	140	128	8	5.7%	133	118	6	4.5%	304	222	73	24.0%	167	153	8	4.8%	337	307	19	5.6%	102	86	11	10.8%	227	197	18	7.9%
Q1 2014/15	1570	1320	170	10.8%	97	88	6	6.2%	180	138	35	19.4%	364	272	77	21.2%	123	115	2	1.6%	342	311	20	5.8%	150	136	9	6.0%	288	260	21	7.3%
Q2 2014/15	1268	1015	181	14.3%	88	73	11	12.5%	122	102	17	13.9%	336	216	97	28.9%	80	75	3	3.8%	257	225	18	7.0%	171	150	16	9.4%	201	174	19	9.5%
Q3 2014/15	1053	862	138	13.1%	78	74	4	5.1%	80	65	14	17.5%	291	189	81	27.8%	58	50	6	10.3%	235	218	10	4.3%	114	100	9	7.9%	183	166	14	7.7%
Q4 2014/15	927	800	110	11.9%	112	101	10	8.9%	91	75	12	13.2%	217	167	46	21.2%	82	80	2	2.4%	177	152	20	11.3%	54	49	3	5.6%	194	176	17	8.8%
Q1 2015/16	776	667	89	11.5%	83	70	12	14.5%	98	86	8	8.2%	190	148	36	18.9%	81	70	9	11.1%	157	133	20	12.7%	28	25	2	7.1%	139	133	2	1.4%
Q2 2015/16	885	724	127	14.4%	85	75	8	9.4%	79	71	6	7.6%	219	153	57	26.0%	66	55	5	7.6%	167	141	24	14.4%	65	55	8	12.3%	204	174	19	9.3%
Q3 2015/16	744	653	68	9.1%	82	71	11	13.4%	73	65	6	8.2%	145	117	22	15.2%	33	30	2	6.1%	161	142	17	10.6%	34	30	2	5.9%	216	198	13	6.0%
Q4 2015/16	715	605	79	11.0%	43	36	4	9.3%	53	41	12	22.6%	151	120	25	16.6%	47	42	3	6.4%	149	125	20	13.4%	36	31	5	13.9%	236	210	10	4.2%
Q1 2016/17	524	391	119	22.7%	46	40	6	13.0%	38	25	13	34.2%	173	107	61	35.3%	38	28	8	21.1%	115	92	19	16.5%	30	27	1	3.3%	84	72	11	13.1%
Q2 2016/17	428	338	77	18.0%	32	29	3	9.4%	33	26	6	18.2%	110	72	29	26.4%	24	22	2	8.3%	97	75	21	21.6%	57	50	6	10.5%	75	64	10	13.3%
Q3 2016/17	408	320	65	15.9%	48	37	10	20.8%	22	17	3	13.6%	98	67	25	25.5%	44	33	6	13.6%	109	94	10	9.2%	28	22	4	14.3%	59	50	7	11.9%
Q4 2016/17	455	327	101	22.2%	37	28	7	18.9%	27	21	6	22.2%	151	88	55	36.4%	44	43	1	2.3%	83	60	18	21.7%	27	20	5	18.5%	86	67	9	10.5%
Q1 2017/18	443	333	86	19.4%	33	27	4	12.1%	28	17	10	35.7%	135	86	41	30.4%	39	33	4	10.3%	136	107	21	15.4%	14	14	0	0.0%	58	49	6	10.3%
Q2 2017/18	438	335	73	16.7%	38	34	4	10.5%	37	30	7	18.9%	107	59	34	31.8%	63	57	3	4.8%	96	69	21	21.9%	40	34	3	7.5%	57	52	1	1.8%
Q3 2017/18	383	310	55	14.4%	27	22	4	14.8%	23	20	1	4.3%	99	75	19	19.2%	39	30	6	15.4%	96	73	19	19.8%	40	38	2	5.0%	59	52	4	6.8%
Q4 2017/18	358	277	53	14.8%	19	16	1	5.3%	42	26	9	21.4%	119	84	22	18.5%	36	34	2	5.6%	68	53	11	16.2%	26	24	2	7.7%	48	40	6	12.5%
Q1 2018/19	449	330	83	18.5%	46	37	5	10.9%	24	22	1	4.2%	150	101	36	24.0%	41	35	3	7.3%	107	80	17	15.9%	52	36	14	26.9%	29	19	7	24.1%
Q2 2018/19	395	304	59	14.9%	30	25	3	10.0%	22	18	4	18.2%	144	93	31	21.5%	36	27	6	16.7%	113	96	12	10.6%	18	17	1	5.6%	32	28	2	6.3%

2.5.3 In order to add some context to proportionality, the table above displays volumes of stop and searches over time in Suffolk at district level, broken down by white and BME stop and searches. The last 12 months of district data shows that from a county perspective the overall number of stop and searches has decreased for both White and BME stops and in terms of the individual districts, the total number of stop and searches has decreased in all districts with the exception of Ipswich and Suffolk Coastal.

2.5.4 Furthermore, table 5 displays stop and search over the same period, showing the percentage of all stop and searches on persons of BME ethnicity, along with the proportionality ratio. With reference to Table 5, the overall disproportionality value for Suffolk has fluctuated over the last 12 months reaching a peak of 5.0 in quarter 1 of 2018/19 and reducing in the most recent quarter for which data has been analysed.

Table 5: Proportionality of Suffolk Stop and Search by district

Quarter	Suffolk		Babergh		Forest Heath		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		St. Edmundsbury		Suffolk Coastal		Waveney	
	% BME Prop.		% BME Prop.		% BME Prop.		% BME Prop.		% BME Prop.		% BME Prop.		% BME Prop.		% BME Prop.	
Q3 2015/16	9.1%	2.1	13.4%	7.0	8.2%	1.1	15.2%	1.5	6.1%	3.2	10.6%	3.0	5.9%	1.9	6.0%	2.9
Q4 2015/16	11.0%	2.6	9.3%	5.0	22.6%	3.4	16.6%	1.7	6.4%	3.4	13.4%	4.0	13.9%	4.5	4.2%	2.1
Q1 2016/17	22.7%	6.0	13.0%	6.8	34.2%	5.9	35.3%	4.6	21.1%	13.1	16.5%	5.0	3.3%	1.0	13.1%	6.5
Q2 2016/17	18.0%	4.5	9.4%	4.7	18.2%	2.6	26.4%	3.2	8.3%	4.2	21.6%	6.8	10.5%	3.3	13.3%	6.6
Q3 2016/17	15.9%	4.0	20.8%	12.2	13.6%	2.0	25.5%	3.0	13.6%	8.3	9.2%	2.6	14.3%	5.0	11.9%	5.9
Q4 2016/17	22.2%	6.1	18.9%	11.3	22.2%	3.2	36.4%	5.0	2.3%	1.0	21.7%	7.3	18.5%	6.9	10.5%	5.7
Q1 2017/18	19.4%	5.1	12.1%	6.7	35.7%	6.7	30.4%	3.8	10.3%	5.6	15.4%	4.8	0.0%	0.0	10.3%	5.2
Q2 2017/18	16.7%	4.3	10.5%	5.3	18.9%	2.6	31.8%	4.6	4.8%	2.4	21.9%	7.4	7.5%	2.4	1.8%	0.8
Q3 2017/18	14.4%	3.5	14.8%	8.2	4.3%	0.6	19.2%	2.0	15.4%	9.2	19.8%	6.3	5.0%	1.5	6.8%	3.2
Q4 2017/18	14.8%	3.8	5.3%	2.8	21.4%	3.9	18.5%	2.1	5.6%	2.7	16.2%	5.0	7.7%	2.3	12.5%	6.3
Q1 2018/19	18.5%	5.0	10.9%	6.1	4.2%	0.5	24.0%	2.9	7.3%	3.9	15.9%	5.2	26.9%	10.8	24.1%	15.6
Q2 2018/19	14.9%	3.8	10.0%	5.4	18.2%	2.5	21.5%	2.7	16.7%	10.2	10.6%	3.0	5.6%	1.6	6.3%	3.0

2.5.5 A potential limitation of using census population data on which to base proportionality calculations is that not all persons that are subject of stop and search in Suffolk will be resident in the county. Between October 2017 and September 2018, there was a total of 1,585 stop and searches – 1,182 were on Suffolk residents, 221 on individuals who are resident outside Suffolk and 182 where the address was not stated. Therefore, a further analysis was undertaken at a county level, looking at disproportionality of stops and searches only where the postal address of the subject is identified as within Suffolk, displayed in table 6.

Table 6: Suffolk stop and search broken down by postal address

	Total	White	BME	Ethnicity not stated	BME as percentage of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	1182	964	150	68	12.69	3.08
Postal address outside Suffolk	221	127	77	17	34.84	12.02
Postal address not given	182	130	23	29	12.64	3.51
Total	1585	1221	250	114		

2.5.6 Table 6 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons who are resident outside Suffolk has on overall figures. For the reasons stated in 2.5.5, it is argued this is a more balanced way of looking at proportionality of stop and searches in Suffolk, if using the demographic profile of Suffolk residents as a basis for judging proportionality. Clearly, the use of stop and search remains disproportionate when looking at this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.

Table 7: South Suffolk (Ipswich) stop and search broken down by postal address

	Total	White	BME	Ethnicity not stated	BME as percentage of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	396	281	79	36	19.95	2.25
Postal address outside Suffolk	41	17	17	7	41.46	8.02
Postal address not given	75	55	12	8	16.00	1.75
Total	512	353	108	51		

2.5.7 As in Table 6, the data in Table 7 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons who are resident outside Suffolk has on overall figures. Table 7 is an assessment of stop and searches in South Suffolk (Ipswich). In line with County statistics, the use of stop and search remains disproportionate when analysing this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.

2.6 Community Satisfaction / Quality of Service

Table 8: Responses to the question: Did you understand the reason for being searched?

	Total	Male	Female	Asian	Black	Mixed	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No	15.27%	15.37%	10.65%	10.00%	10.78%	10.78%	31.25%	11.96%
Yes	84.73%	84.63%	89.35%	90.00%	89.22%	89.22%	68.75%	88.04%

2.6.1 Table 8 displays the responses to the question 'Did you understand the reason for being searched?' As the table shows, the majority of respondents did understand the reason for the search (85%) Between 1% and 2% of respondents answered that they did not understand why they were searched.

Table 9: Responses to the question: Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?

	Total	Male	Female	Asian	Black	Mixed	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No	16.53%	16.69%	10.65%	16.67%	14.71%	14.71%	31.25%	12.61%
Yes	83.47%	83.31%	89.35%	83.33%	85.29%	85.29%	68.75%	87.39%

2.6.2 Table 9 displays responses to the question 'Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?' Responses are similar to the previous question, with 83% of respondents answering that they did and between 1% and 2% saying they did not.

2.6.3 In terms of public satisfaction it can be seen that just over eight out of ten stop search subjects were satisfied with the way in which they were treated by officers. Although the most dissatisfaction was experienced by those subjects from a Chinese/Other ethnic background, this equated to five negative responses.

3 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

3.1.1 The Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) is a community group set up to:

- Openly discuss the disproportionality in 'Stops and Searches' of people defining their own ethnicity as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME);
- Improve trust and confidence in the way Police conduct Stops and Searches;
- Improve community cohesion in Suffolk.

3.1.2 The location of these meetings has historically been the ISCRE offices on St Matthews Street, but identifying alternative venues remains a standing agenda item for the group to increase

interest in the group from new and different groups. Recent meetings have been held at the University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich.

3.1.3 The following section outlines some of the operational context within which the Stop and Search tactic has been used in Suffolk this year.

3.2 East Suffolk

3.2.1 Stop and search is a tactic that has again been used with significant success throughout the last 12 months in particular by the East Scorpion team. The Scorpion team is responsible for the proactive enforcement around Operation Velocity (East) and it also targets those individuals that feature in locally commissioned operation Operation Theodore which focusses on drug dealing issues in the Leiston area. The objective of these operations is to target the external supply of Class A drugs into the area and disrupt those county lines businesses from operating within East Suffolk.

3.2.2 The majority of proactive work carried out to target these dealer groups is conducted by the East Scorpion team. The most favoured and effective tactic has been to deploy plain clothes officers to identified hotspot areas to utilise their powers of stop and search under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. These stop searches on the street have gathered evidence of personal drug use (recent purchases) and also identified premises where dealers have established themselves, often within vulnerable drug users homes. This evidence and additional information has allowed the spontaneous entry into premises to arrest people on suspicion of drug trafficking offences.

3.2.3 There has been considerable success in using this method with a number of individuals being found and arrested in possession of large quantities of Class A drugs.

3.2.4 Operation Cuby 18 is a live drug trafficking operation that commenced in July 2018 where the use of stop and search has been crucial. Officers conducting observations on a suspected drug dealer's home periodically detain callers to the premises and upon searching them may find evidence of recent purchases. This evidence will then contribute to the overall evidential package used to convict the dealer.

3.2.5 In the last eight months the team has conducted a total of 52 intelligence based stop searches (33 of these were negative and 19 were positive).

3.2.6 The use of stop and search also helps to provide community reassurance and ensures that the wider public are not adversely affected by an increase in acquisitive or violent crime that often accompanies any widespread increase in Class A drug availability.

3.3 West Suffolk

3.3.1 Stop search continues to be one of the useful tools used by officers in the fight against crime and in particular around the growing issues surrounding County Lines. With intelligence led policing, the effective use of the stop and search power has provided some positive results:

3.3.2 In October 2017 there was a crime associated with the supply of Class A drugs; the target was a County Lines network. A vehicle was stopped and searched along with three occupants who had departed a known drug dealing 'cuckoo' address in Bury St Edmunds. Three London based associates were arrested from the vehicle. There was a Section 17 entry into the address that resulted in the arrest of a further London based associate as well as the local occupant. Searches and arrests resulted in the seizure of 71 deals of heroin and 120 deals of crack cocaine, £500 cash, mobile telephones and a knife that was brandished towards police.
Result: 40 months imprisonment for one person arrested, case ongoing regarding the remainder.

3.3.3 In February 2018 there was crime associated with the supply of Class A drugs in which a County Line was the target. During a disruption/welfare visit that was conducted in Newmarket, police were permitted entry and once inside, a London based associate attempted to evade police. Searches and arrests resulted in the seizure of approximately 50 deals of Class A, quantities of unprepared heroin, approximately £1,000 cash, multiple mobiles a lock knife and an imitation handgun.

Result: three years imprisonment.

- 3.3.4 In May 2018 a crime was recorded for Class A Possession with Intent to Supply. A drugs line was the target and a stop and search was conducted on a vehicle and the occupants (one London based associate and one local person). Searches and arrests of both persons resulted in the seizure of approximately 50 deals of heroin, approximately £1,500 cash, a hatchet, flick knife, lock knife and multiple phones.
Results: enquiries ongoing.
- 3.3.5 Working in partnership with other agencies continues to be a priority, especially in the fight against County Lines. Following a County Lines Strategic Workshop with partners, a plan has been compiled and is currently being implemented across all agencies.
- 3.3.3 As well as effective working relationships with partners, working relationships continue to be maintained and developed with colleagues in other forces (MET Trident Gang and Enfield Gangs Unit) and Regional Crime Teams (ERSOU), with conference meetings to discuss both strategic and tactical options to address emerging issues impacting on the Area.
- 3.3.6 The Western Area continues to hold weeks of action focussing on issues identified through the Area Tasking process. These weeks often involve support from other teams/ departments such as the Scorpion, Roads Policing and Firearms Unit and the Dog section (internally) and partner agencies (Immigration/Trading Standards/British Transport Police)
- 3.3.5 Following decamp from a vehicle linked to County Lines, Officers stopped an individual matching description who was acting suspiciously in nearby vicinity. Detained for search under S.23 MDA, whereby positive result for cannabis. Resulted in caution due to amount of drugs located, but excellent intelligence gathering opportunity for a known Op Velocity nominal.
- 3.3.7 Intelligence to suggest individual was dealing for a known County Line. Officers attempted to stop an individual, which resulted in protracted search, eventually locating him in garden of unknown residential property attempting to hide under a bush and burying items. Recovered items included a quantity of cash and 2 x mobile phones. Detainee was admitted to hospital where he admitted plugging drugs up his anus, and bundle containing heroin was produced. The individual was charged and remanded for Possession with Intent to Supply (PWITS).
- 3.3.8 The continued use of Stop Search powers is an effective tool in disrupting County Lines activity and also gaining important intelligence to continue to build a detailed picture of activity, thereby assisting in managing threat, harm and risk presented with this line of criminality.

3.4 South Suffolk

- 3.4.1 Investigative resources continue to be involved in the proactive targeting and tackling of prolific offenders in liaison with the Area Intelligence Unit (AIU) to develop the intelligence picture/knowledge. This process continues to evolve to ensure that targeted and detailed profiles of offenders and offence locations are disseminated in order to guide deployment and decision making.
- 3.4.2 The proactive Scorpion teams are now under the management of the Serious Crime Disruption Team (SCDT) Detective Inspector who ensures that their deployments are in line with force priorities and are being used effectively to deal with situations posing high threat, risk and harm.
- 3.4.3 The Youth Gang Prevention Unit is managed by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Inspector who is engaging and working closely with partners to ensure the smooth sharing of information and intelligence regarding those involved or on the periphery of gang related activity to try and deter them from criminal activity and to prevent persons from coming to harm. Partners include education, health, social care and relevant supporting charities.
- 3.4.4 Following an Operation Velocity tasking and deployment a subject was stopped and searched in April 2018 in a vulnerable area causing community unrest. The search was positive resulting in the arrest of an individual who posed a threat of risk and harm to the community

as well as to two vulnerable persons. Further work led to the recovery of a large quantity of drugs (between 200 and 300 wraps) along with a significant quantity of cash.

3.4.5 Following a murder in the summer of 2018 a Section 60 relating to stop and search was invoked within Ipswich. During this period a significant number of stop searches were conducted by officers with a volume of positive results including multiple possessions of offensive weapons and/or bladed articles.

3.4.6 The drugs team engaged in the stop and search of an individual which proved to be crucial from an evidential perspective in respect of a subsequent investigation relating to County Lines. The subject was convicted and is currently serving an eight year sentence.

3.5 Operation Velocity

3.5.1 Operation Velocity is an intervention focussing on all drugs use/supply in Suffolk which encompasses Operations Boulevard, London and Volcanic. During the reporting period, 99 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to these operations with 43 (43%) of those stops being in the St Edmundsbury district. 23 (53%) of the stops in St Edmundsbury resulted in a strip search. There were 26 (60%) of the St Edmundsbury stops used on subjects from a White background and 13 (30%) on BME subjects.

Please refer to the table below for countywide statistics.

Table 10: Countywide comparisons for Operation Velocity, including statistics for Operations Boulevard, London and Volcanic

District	Number of stops	Number of BME stops	Number of White stops	Strip searches	NFA outcome	Address in Suffolk	Address out of Suffolk
Babergh	3 (3%)	0 (0%)	3 (100%)	2 (66%)	1 (33%)	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Forest Heath	10 (10%)	2 (20%)	8 (80%)	5 (50%)	6 (60%)	6 (60%)	2 (20%)
Ipswich	18 (18%)	6 (33%)	10 (55%)	3 (17%)	8 (44%)	14 (78%)	2 (11%)
Mid Suffolk	6 (6%)	2 (33%)	3 (50%)	2 (33%)	5 (83%)	4 (67%)	1 (17%)
St. Edmundsbury	43 (43%)	13 (30%)	26 (60%)	23 (53%)	22 (51%)	21 (49%)	18 (42%)
Suffolk Coastal	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Waveney	17 (17%)	1 (6%)	15 (88%)	7 (41%)	11 (65%)	16 (94%)	1 (6%)
Total	99 (100%)	24 (24%)	67 (68%)	42 (42%)	54 (54%)	66 (67%)	24 (24%)

3.5.2 In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Velocity incorporating statistics from Boulevard, London and Volcanic), 66 (67%) were Suffolk addresses, 24 (24%) were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 9 (9%) of cases.

3.5.3 The NFA rate for Operation Velocity (incorporating statistics from Boulevard, London and Volcanic) is 54% (n=54)

3.5.4 According to the County Lines Disruptions Log, the following statistics have been recorded between January 2018 and September 2018:

District	Number of disruptions	Confirmed quantity of drugs seized	Unconfirmed quantity of drugs seized	Cash seized
East	8	APPROX 3-4g (30-40wraps) Class A	£21,540.00 worth of drugs	£4,050.00
South	28	634 wraps, predominantly Class A		£4,078
West	76	2050 wraps		£14,980

3.6 Urban Street Gang Unit / Operation Woven

3.6.1 The Urban Street Gang Unit (USGU) formerly Operation Woven is an intervention focusing on preventing younger drug group members from committing crime in the Southern Area over the summer period and was established during March 2017. During the reporting period 8 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to this operation. 1(12%) resulted in a strip search. 7 (88%) of the stop searches were used on those of white ethnicity and 1(12%) on those of BME background.

- 3.6.2 The age range of those individuals stopped in respect of Operation Woven was between 15 and 36 years of age.
- 3.6.3 In respect of the postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Woven, 8 (100%) gave Suffolk addresses.
- 3.6.4 The NFA rate for Operation Woven is 37% (3 out of 8).

4 NATIONAL COMPARISON

- 4.1.1 The latest national stop search data is published to March 2018³. In the year ending March 2018 there were 279,598 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales including the British Transport Police under section 1 of PACE, a fall of 8% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk there was a reduction of 10%. Between the year ending March 2017 and the year ending March 2018 the number of stops reduced from 1805 to 1622.
- 4.1.2 The latest national data is for the financial year 2017/2018. This data shows that Suffolk conducted up to 2 stops per 1,000 of population compared to 3 stops per 1,000 of population in the previous financial year. In England and Wales there were 5 searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2018.
- 4.1.3 In the year ending 31st March 2018, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were 4 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. The difference between the two groups narrowed to twice as likely between the years ending March 2013 and 2015, rising to 3 times as likely in the year ending March 2016 and rising again to just over 3 and a half times as likely in the year ending March 2017. This is likely to be because, as mentioned above, searches have fallen more amongst the White group than among BME groups in the latest year driving the disparity rate.
- 4.1.2 A similar pattern was seen for the Black ethnic group, which fell from 6 times as likely to just over 4 times as likely between the years ending March 2012 and 2015, before rising to 6 and a half times as likely in the year ending March 2016 and rising again to over 8 times as likely in the year ending March 2017. In the year ending March 2018, the rate has risen again, with those who considered themselves to be Black 9 and a half times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White.
- 4.1.3 In Suffolk, for the year ending 31st March 2018, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just over 4 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. This is a decrease compared with data for the year ending 31st March 2017 which showed that those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just over 5 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. It is likely that a decrease in disproportionality has been evidenced due to the number of searches has falling more amongst BME groups than among the White group between the two years.

5 BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH (BUSS) / HMIC INSPECTIONS / ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN (APPGC) RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1.1 The Home Office has requested that all police forces in England and Wales provide returns in relation to progress against actions arising from Best Use of Stop and Search, HMIC PEEL Inspections and APPGC (in terms of use of stop and search on children and young people) in one standardised format.
- 5.1.2 Appendix A displays the latest statistics in respect of the Proportionality of Stop and Search Use in Suffolk in respect of BME and Age. This report is for quarter 2, 2018-2019 and analyses data from 01/10/2017 to 30/09/2018.

³ Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales Year Ending 31 March 2018

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

7.1 There are no other implications or risks associated with this report

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	No
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes